PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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Keeping Families Strong

September/October, 1999

A Silent Message

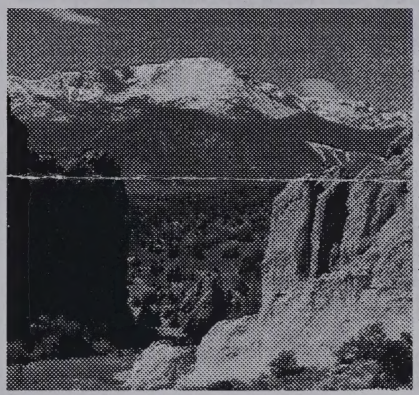
By Ben Kemena

Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Montana and New Mexico — places of unspeakable beauty —are also places where state lawmakers have scuttled hate-crimes legislation. Citing everything from "outside influences" to "special rights" to fears of "double jeopardy" to "it's simply not the answer," Continental Divide watersheds have become synonymous with provincial closed-mindedness.

Despite recent regional history, the only political alternative offered has been more of the same. Sadly, for all of the natural wonders of the Rocky Mountain West, a stubborn refusal to address its most important resource —people —endures. Western state political leaders don't like being called to task for partisanship, intolerance and insular myopia, but sometimes the shoe fits.

Somehow, hate-crimes persecuting citizens selected by race, creed or religion are viewed differently from hate-crimes against gays. A majority of western state politicians continue to exclude gays from civilized society. The silent message of state government is loud and clear: Some human lives are expendable. The political question at the heart of the issue is whether the region will be a better place for protecting all citizens from violent bigotry —gay or straight.

Affirmation of equal rights has not come easily to our Centennial state. With the 1996 U.S. Supreme Court



decision reversing Amendment 2, Coloradans bowed to the U.S. Constitution. Gay civil-rights protection in Denver, Boulder, Aspen, Telluride and Crested Butte have endured, providing welcome "sanctuary for gay citizens." Yet, Ft. Collins voted last year against gay civil rights in an election that was closer in 1988 than in 1998. For the time being, Colorado has joined its western neighbors in excluding gays from the call to a "more perfect union." Twenty-two other states have chosen to include gays in their social vision. I believe Colorado will eventually follow.

Colorado politicians will eventually follow the "Show Me" state of Missouri, which quietly passed hate-crimes legislation signed by their governor in June. State government will eventually follow the lead of the U.S. Senate that passed proposed hate-crimes legislation on a voice vote in July. The visibility of prejudice will eventually translate into legislation that values all human life.

Hope has been the mantra of gay people for centuries. There is hopeful news. Meeting in Denver last fall, the American Psychiatric Association voted unanimously against so-called "gay conversion therapies" as a bold step against harm. In addition, there has been support for gay civil rights from numerous state and federal courts, the U.S. Senate, the U.S. president and many faith communities. The enemy is more about ignorance than hate; and may we remember the courage of some Colorado civic leaders who champion open dialogue and learning about the issue.

On the foothills of the Rampart Range overlooking fledgling Colorado Springs and the Fountain Valley, Katharine Lee Bates labored up the slopes of Pikes Peak in the not-so-distant past. She was charmed by the beauty, overwhelmed by the majesty, and embraced the bounty of this land. On a clear day, one can see several hundred miles. In repose from the view, she composed "America the Beautiful." As a gay poet, Bates has something to say to us as Coloradans, as Rocky Mountaineers, as Americans; All people are important as we aspire to form a "more perfect union" —and ambivalence toward the value of any particular human life cheapens the value of all human life.

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Ask Betty!

PlanetOut, the leading gay and lesbian online portal, has signed up Betty DeGeneres, Ellen's mom, to host a new online advice column. Visitors to the site can ask questions about their family relationships and coming out. Betty says, "I want to help lesbian, gay, bi, trans and questioning youth (of all ages) make peace with their parents, just as I supported Ellen over 20 years ago. I hope to convey to parents the message that your gay children are still your children, who need your unconditional love now more than ever."

One young gay man wrote asking for advice to help his mother deal with the issue of his homosexuality. Betty DeGeneres wrote back:

"PFLAG, PFLAG, PFLAG. If there's any way you can get your mom to a PFLAG meeting, please do. She'll find the most wonderful, supportive, loving parents who can help her in her journey to acceptance and understanding. If she won't go, you go —meet the members, hear their stories and get the brochures for your mom. At the risk of tooting my own horn, many people have told me they've given my book to their parents to read and it has helped them a lot. . . Good luck."

"When you meet Betty, you see your own mom," said Tom Rielly, founder and Chairman of PlanetOut. "The only difference between Betty and the rest of our parents is that she happens to have three movie and TV stars as children."
You can reach Betty at: mom@planetout.com.

Having AIDS is no walk in the park
Helping someone with AIDS can be!

The AIDS Walk will begin at 10 a.m. at Cheesman Park in Denver. Part of the monies raised will go to S-CAP (Southern Colorado AIDS Project.) Call Lori Vollmar for a pledge sheet or car pool info at 719-520-9198. Contributions can be sent to S-CAP, at 1301 South 8th Street, Suite 200, CS/CO 80906.

If you think AIDS is over, think again! Here are a few startling statistics:

- In the U.S., two people under the age of 20 are infected with HIV every hour.
- Currently, one in every 250 Americans is infected with HIV. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) estimates 40,000 new HIV cases yearly in the U.S.
- Over 50% of Americans infected with HIV are not under a doctor's care.
- Overall, HIV infection rates are not slowing and people with AIDS are living longer (requiring prolonged care.) These two facts combined have made the demand for HIV and AIDS services far greater than before; thus requiring more funding.
- AIDS funding has declined by 20% nationwide. Many people obviously think AIDS is over.

Letter to Dobson

As this newsletter goes to press, the National Religious Leadership Roundtable (see page 4) has sent a letter to Dr. James Dobson asking for a meeting to "begin a process of seeking truth about homosexuality and homosexuals."

For years Dr. Dobson has condemned gay persons on his radio broadcasts and in the Focus on the Family print material. Much of the information he imparts is false; some inflammatory.

The letter asking for a dialogue was instigated by Rev. Mel White who was a ghostwriter for Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson until he came out as a gay man. His unsuccessful struggle to change his sexual orientation over 20 years of religious change therapy and shock treatments is documented in his book, *A Stranger at the Gate.*

At this time, Dobson has not responded to the letter, but John Paulk, an employee of Focus on the Family and the head of Exodus International (a religious change ministry), has. He defended Dobson's anti-gay rhetoric as simply a response to "the aggressive homosexual agenda."

Paulk, who is married and has a small child, claims he was changed from homosexual to heterosexual through prayer and faith healing and that other gays can change too. He adheres to the belief system of the religious right —that gays are sick, addicted, or have a mental disorder that needs fixing.

He complains that the gay community does not recognize the validity of his story that he had "overcome" homosexuality. Yet a statement made by him in 1993 to the *Wall Street Journal* when he had been married for a year, would seem to contradict his claim. "I don't know if I'll ever have the intensity for sex with women that the average man on the street has." he said. "To say that we've arrived at this place of total heterosexuality —that we're totally healed —is misleading."

O Beautiful! For Spacious Skies

Over 100 years ago, Katharine Lee Bates stood on the summit of Pikes Peak enraptured by the magnificent panorama spread out before her. Gazing at the spacious skies, the purple tinted distant peaks, the sweeping plains below, a few lines of a hymn floated into her mind. Upon returning home that evening she jotted them down. Today, the beloved anthem "America the Beautiful" captures the hopes and dreams of a great nation.

Bates was a scholar, a professor, and a writer of poetry and prose. In 1893 she was a young Wellesley professor who had come west to teach Chaucer and early English religious drama at the summer session of Colorado College. Accompanying her was another Wellesley professor, Katherine Coman, who taught a survey of English history. Coman was a leading spirit in the creation of Boston's settlement house and also led a campaign to abolish sweatshops and improve conditions for factory workers.

The two women were life-long companions who lived together for 25 years in an arrangement known at that time as a "Boston marriage." Neither one was ever married to a man and both discouraged male suitors. They were kindred spirits who shared feelings of compassion for those who suffered social injustices. Both were fiercely independent women who "saw beyond the years."

At one informal faculty gathering of the Colorado College faculty, Bates compared America with the world's past civilizations. She told her colleagues: "Unless we are willing to crown our greatness with goodness, and our bounty with brotherhood, our beloved America may go the same way."

At one point in her early teaching career, the Wellesley administration considered requiring its teachers to sign a pledge of adherence to "orthodox Christian principles." Bates was prepared to resign over this threat to academic freedom. Fortunately, the administration modified its stance.

When Katharine Coman died in 1915, Bates was grief stricken. She published a book of poetry which celebrated her companion's life and not so coincidentally, their lives together.

"Yellow Clover: A Book of Remembrance," and letters written while Bates was abroad reflect the devotion that was the anchor of their relationship. In 1891 from England, she wrote:

"For I am coming back to you, my Dearest. . .You are always in my heart and in my longings. I've been so homesick for you on this side of the ocean and yet so still and happy in memory and consciousness of you. It was the living away from you that made, at first, the prospect of leaving Wellesley so heartachy. . .It was never very possible to leave Wellesley . . . because so many love-anchors held me there, and it seemed least of all possible when I had just found the long-desired way to your dearest heart . . .Of course I want to come to you, very much as I want to come to heaven . . .Sweetheart, I always love you, more dearly than you know. Please take care of my Katharine."

Today a controversy rages over whether Katharine Lee Bates was a lesbian. Putting labels aside, no one can read the above letter without realizing that the two women were of one spirit.

A Silent Message

(Continued from page 1)

In statehouses across the Rocky Mountain West, it is apparently too late this year to reconsider hate-crime concerns. But if hate-crime laws are not the answer, let legislative leaders debate the issue openly, and consider something different than the status quo. Violence will continue untempered as long as silence is not shamed.

. . .Thanks to Ben Kemena for permission to reprint this article. Ben lives in Denver and is a longtime Colorado resident serving in health care. The article appeared in the August 13, 1999 Denver Post where Ben Kemena has been selected for "Colorado Voices." He can be reached at: drbenkc@dimensional.com

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Never be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.

. . .Elie Wiesel
Nobel peace Prize Winnter

INSIDE/OUT GAY YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP

Serving gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning youth

Weekly meetings offer rapping and recreational activities under the guidance of trained facilitators. There is no fee.
Meetings are safe, supportive, and confidential.
Indepth counseling available.

Call 575-8484
email: NsideoutCS@aol.com
http://www.outgay.com/community/colorado/youth

Sponsored by the Community Council for Adolescent Development

God. . . and Gays

On August 23rd the National Religious Leadership Roundtable gathered in Colorado Springs to present a forum entitled,"Spirituality and Sexuality: In the Image of God." About 200 people attended.

The NRLR is a national network of gay-friendly church leaders and religious organizations representing a rainbow of denominations including Catholics, Lutherans, Episcopalians, Jews, Unitarians and Muslims. One such organization is Equality Colorado's Voices of Faith for Human Rights which represents 80 congregations in Colorado; five in Colorado Springs.

It was no accident that the Roundtable brought the public forum to Colorado Springs. Rev. Kevin Maly, director of Voices of Faith, pointed out that there are many organizations hostile both to the culture at large and toward gays and lesbians here. He cited Focus on the Family and Colorado for Family Values as two. "We have to correct the misinformation," he said. "They focus on sexual acts, but there is no talk about relationships, no talk about love, no talk about spirituality —it's almost as if our very humanity is denied."

"We are bringing our witness to Colorado Springs to demonstrate that GLBT people of faith play an essential role in the life and ministry of our religious communities," said Elder Marco Grimaldo of More Light Presbyterians, a member of the Roundtable.

Rev. Nori Rost of the Colorado Springs MCC Church led off the proceedings by welcoming the panelists and guests. She spoke movingly of the gays and lesbians who had been broken in spirit after undergoing religious "change" therapy and then found the empowering affirmation of God's love at MCC.

Among the speakers was Rev. Jimmy Creech who is at risk of being disciplined by the Methodist Church for performing a covenant ceremony for two women. He believes the Christian church is the cause of the oppression of gays in our society. "To worship a God that is angry with the children he creates is to worship a God who is not the Judeo-Christian God," he says. Rev. Creech speaks out because he wants to help the church regain its integrity and because "the GLBT community needs to feel the power of God's grace."

Rabbi Foster, who was involved in the fight against Amendment 2, noted that it was important for religious leaders to educate their own congregations. Then, after studying the issues, they need to "walk their talk" in speaking out for equality and justice. He warned against misusing scripture by reading it literally.

He believes that in our own lives we can make a choice to remain afraid of change and the future or we can seek out those who hold out the vision of the "Promised Land." He also believes that gays *must* form coalitions with the non-gay community to bring about change.

(Continued on page 7)

Pridefest Proclamation

Mayor Mary Lou Makepeace proclaimed August 21-29, 1999 as PrideFest Celebration week.

WHEREAS, the Ninth Annual PrideFest Celebration will be held the week of August 21-29, 1999 and
WHEREAS, PrideFest week is accomplished by the efforts of The Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center and supportive community members and organizations of Colorado Springs; and
WHEREAS, PrideFest provides educational opportunities and recognizes diversity within the Colorado Springs community; and
WHEREAS, PrideFest takes this opportunity to recognize The Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center for their many contributions to the citizens of the City of Colorado Springs.
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mary Lou Makepeace, Mayor of the City of Colorado Springs, do hereby proclaim the week of August 21-29, 1999 as PrideFest Week.

Focus on the Family immediately took issue with the Mayor, contending that she shouldn't have issued the proclamation "because gays lead destructive lives" and that the proclamation "promotes intolerance and hatred toward ex-gay people and toward citizens of faith who morally object to homosexual behavior."

Nuremberg Lessons

In June, the Huntington Library in Pasadena, CA hosted the first public exhibition of the Nuremberg papers. Signed by Adolf Hitler himself, they redefined the role of Jews in Germany and opened the door to the Holocaust. The four primary paragraphs are chilling.

- Paragraph 1 ended the right of Jews to marry.
- Paragraph 2 ended the right of Jews to have sexual intercourse freely.
- Paragraph 3 ended the right of Jews to employ or be employed freely.
- Paragraph 4 ended the right of Jews to display/serve the nation's flag.

Now here we are in this country struggling to legally marry, erase sodomy laws, pass ENDA, and serve in the military without being closeted.

PFLAG Potpourri

September 8th PFLAG Program

Ken Prunty, new Regional Director of the PFLAG Mountain West Region, will speak on "Gays and the Religious Right" at 8 p.m. .

Ken is an ordained minister of the Chuch of God, and has been a member of PFLAG since 1984. He was a founding member and leader of the Indianapolis and Anderson, Indiana chapters and directed the 1995 national convention held in Indianapolis.

In 1995 he and Howard Bess who wrote *Pastor I Am Gay,* founded SeaCom (short for Searching for Common Ground.) The organization is devoted to building bridges of love and better understanding of homosexuality among religious communities. Seacom has sponsored workshops and forums throughout the country.

Ken and his wife, Florene, live in Broomfield Colorado and are members of the Boulder Chapter.

"Ten Ways to Fight Hate"

In September, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) will publish a 32-page guide, "Ten Ways to Fight Hate." The booklet offers suggestions on how citizens can fight hate groups and deal with hate crimes.

The Center has generously offered to print and ship the guide to all U.S. PFLAG chapters, free of charge.

The booklet summarizes the work of communities around the nation and the collective wisdom of human rights experts. It includes an extensive list of organizations like PFLAG, that work for human rights.

This will be an excellent resource for coalition building on a local and national level.

Check out PFLAG's library exhibit at Penrose Main downtown October 5th through 31st

October 13th Meeting

The Rev. Jim Chandler will give us insights into "Honoring Your Personal Spiritual Path." October is National Coming Out Month - a time for parents as well as their gay offspring to free themselves from the confines of the closet and begin their spiritual quest!

Rev. Chandler is the pastor of the Denver Church of Religious Science.

November 10th Program

Brent Scarpo will give us a behind-the-scenes look at the filming of the documentary, "Journey to A Hate-Free Millennium." The film offers a penetrating look inside the minds of those individuals who choose to hate. It then goes on to explore what happens when we hate and what happens when we choose NOT to hate.

Among those interviewed are Matt Shepard's mother, Columbine High School victims, Holocaust survivors and Elton John.

Gay PTA Formed By PFLAG Members

The gay community and its supporters quietly made history this summer by creating the Gay Lesbian Parent Teacher Student Association of Greater Puget Sound. Susan Carmel, board member of PFLAG Seattle, WA is the proud PTA president! It's the first "official" gay PTA in the U.S., formed with the complete support of the Washington State PTA.

Many of the founding members were present at a series of sexual minority family forums held last winter by the Seattle school district's S.A.F.E. schools project.The new PTA will enlist other members statewide. It will help gay students find adult allies they lack in schools and offer a way for gay parents to have a stronger voice in the schools.

Mormon "PFLAG" Shines at Regional Conference

The Mountain West Regional PFLAG conference was held June 11 and 12 in Salt Lake City co-sponsored by the Salt Lake City PFLAG and the Family Fellowship, a volunteer service organization made up of Mormon families engaged in the cause of strengthening families with homosexual members. About 200 people attended. The Friday night keynote banquet featured a concert by the Salt Lake Men's Choir and speeches by Paul Beeman, National PFLAG president, and Jonathan Moscone, the gay son of former San Francisco mayor George Moscone, who was murdered along with Councilman Harvey Milk in 1978.

On Sunday most of the conference participants joined the gay and lesbian community in their annual Pride March. Parents were enlisted to help carry a huge, 300 foot long rainbow flag. Pridefest tents, booths and activities occupied the entire city block around the City and County building. Several thousand people enjoyed the event with gusto. TV station KSL, owned by the Mormon church, produced an excellent two and a half minute report for the evening news.

All in all the regional conference was a heart-warming experience. The only disappointment was the low turnout by Colorado PFLAG members. Only 12 Coloradans attended this conference whereas about 40 attended last year's conference in Albuquerque.

Merlin Logan

PERSPECTIVES

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Maya Angelou

I have no desire to go and hear things that are contrary to what the Bible teaches. I don't have to drink poison to know it's bad for me.

. . . Nancy Sutton, Colorado for Family Values, when asked if she would be attending the Religious Roundtable Leadership Forum held in Colorado Springs.

Anyone in the City Council or mayor's office would know that something like this would be divisive and controversial. This isn't "Love Your Pet Week."

. . .Amy Tracy, spokeswoman for Focus on the Family, complaining about the Colorado Springs Mayor issuing the Pridefest Proclamation

Proclamations are part of community celebrations. I believe this city has many people in it and this is a mayor's office for all the people of Colorado Springs.

. . .Mayor Mary Lou Makepeace who signs hundreds of proclamations a year.

Who am I to tell someone they can or cannot serve their country? I could care less what a person's sexual orientation is. All I care is that the guy next to me can get the job done.

Gov. Jesse "The Body" Ventura

VOICES

The pressure placed upon gay men and lesbians to be straight, to be celibate or to be quiet are more than are ever placed on any heterosexual relationship. Particularly at this frightening time of rapid growth in intolerant religious fundamentalism, rightwing fanaticism and AIDS hysteria, the obstacles to loving another person of the same gender with determination, loyalty, caring and celebration are enormous. Yet, despite it all, we love.

Despite the closet, we love. Despite the Crusades, we love. Despite the Inquisition, we love. Despite the witchhunts and trials, we love. Despite the Holocaust, we love. Despite Joseph McCarthy, we love. Despite Jerry Falwell, Jimmy Swaggart and Phyllis Schlafly, we love. Despite crazy Shiites, we love. Despite the horrors of AIDS, we love. Despite everything they say about us and do to us, we love. Despite everything, we love and we love well.

. . .Brian McNaught, On Being Gay

EVERYONE PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP OUR MEETINGS CONFIDENTIAL

"As president, I will resist all attempts to provide the benefits and privileges traditionally accorded married couples to unmarried domestic partners —as such efforts diminish the unique role of marriage as the bedrock of family and society.

As president, I will honor the spirit and intent of nondiscrimination policies and law by opposing federal legislation that would expand them to include special protections based on sexual behavior or preference."

. Anti-gay pledge signed by Republican presidential hopefuls, Dan Quayle, Steve Forbes, Gary Bauer, Sen. Orrin Hatch, Alan Keyes, and Pat Buchanan.

It's better to be hated for what you are than loved for what you are not.

. . .Andre Gide

This is one of those glorious days when the nice guy finishes first!

. . .Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, after swearing in James Hormel as ambassador to Luxembourg

The Colorado Springs Chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is a non-profit, community-based organization not affiliated with any ethnic, religious, educational, counseling, business, or political group. Our purpose is to support and educate families to better understand homosexuality and to provide the community with information and insights gained through our experience and study.

Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde

Starting on September 15th and running through October 23rd, the critically acclaimed play, "Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde," will be staged at the Ricketson Theatre, in the Denver Performing Arts Complex, at 14th and Curtis Streets.

In 1885, Oscar Wilde's play, "The Importance of Being Earnest," opened at a time when the playwright was enjoying unparalleled popularity. The play was an irreverent look at Victorian beliefs and foibles. A hundred days into its run, the play was shut down and Wilde was thrust into a nightmare of accusations, recriminations and judgments directed at his homosexuality.

Incredible as it may seem, he was tried and convicted of acts of "gross indecency" and sent to jail. In 1897, at age 43, Wilde was released from jail, but his spirit had been broken. He died three years later in France.

"Gross Indecency" celebrates the life of Wilde while mourning the possibilities lost with his conviction and imprisonment. More importantly, it proves how little attitudes have changed toward the art world, which seems to be the lightning rod for every wave of "moral outrage" that comes along.

Tickets cost $23 - $36. Call 303-893-4100 or see the web site: http://denver.sidewalk.com/detail/24204.

There is no sin except stupidity

. . .Oscar Wilde

God. . .and Gays

(Continued from page 4)

"This is a civil rights issue," he said, "not just a gay rights issue."

Rev. Bill Johnson of the United Church of Christ remarked that the real issue is not "gay sex," but "human sexuality." He pointed out that we have been lied to about it and told next to nothing about homosexuality. "Prejudice is what happens when ignorance and fear go dancing together," he said. He also made the points that "The concept that a God of Love *hates* is a perversion" and that "love between two people of whatever sexual orientation is *not* a perversion."

Other speakers included the Rev. Carol Johnson, founder of KINSHIP, Inc -International institutes in Healing, Health, Wellness, Reconciliation and Human Rights; the Rev. Carlton W. Veazey, president and chief executive officer of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and founder of the coalition's black church initiative; and Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum of the GLBT synagogue Congregation Simchat Torah in New York City.

The uplifting spirit of the Roundtable was marred only once by a man shouting, "Blasphemy! Blasphemy! Repent before the Lord returns!" He turned around and walked out before security guards could escort him out.

A graphic reminder of the prejudice that exists in some churches today was the colorful display of stoles hanging on the walls of the Antler's ballroom. Each had once been worn by a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The stoles—traditionally conferred at the time of ordination —represented gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals who had been removed from the clergy, denied ordination, or forced to serve in silence.

KEEPING FAMIILIES STRONG

A membership in PFLAG extends a helping hand to families who have gay members; provides educational material for families and the public;and offers a family voice that stands for equality and justice for all human beings.

Local membership includes newsletter
____New member ____Old member

____Low income .$5.00-10.00
____Individual . .$20
____Household . . $30
____Supporting. . $60 $____

National PFLAG membership $8.00 $____

Total $____

Membership extends from Oct,1, 1999 through Sept. 30, 2000

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Make checks payable to Colorado Springs PFLAG and mail to P.O. box 10076, Colorado Springs, CO 80932.
Membership and contributions are tax deductible. All information will remain confidential. PFLAG is a 501(C) 3 nonprofit organization.
If you need a receipt for tax purposes please call 591-6793.

BULLETIN BOARD

PFLAG meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at the Unitarian Church at Dale and Tejon streets. Doors are open at 6:30 p.m. for social time. Sharing circles start at 7:00 p.m. and the program at 8:00 p.m.

Board of Directors meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Unitarian Church annex on the corner of Dale and Cascade streets. All members are welcome.

Wednesday, September 8th—Ken Prunty, Mountain West's new Regional Director and an ordained minister will speak on "Gays and the Religious Right." See page 5.

Wednesday, October 13th—Rev. Jim Chandler will give us insights about "Honoring Your Personal Spiritual Path." See page 5.

Wednesday, November 10th—Brent Scarpo will speak on making the documentary, "Journey to A Hate-Free Millenniumn." See page 5.

Other Meetings, Conferences, and Gay Times

September 15 - October 23rd - "Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde" at the Ricketson Theatre in Denver. See page 7.

October 5 -31 Check out the PFLAG exhibit at Penrose Library downtown.

October 6-23 -The 4th annual Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival presented by Upstart Performing Ensemble at Smokebrush Theater.

Saturday, October 9 - Meeting of the Coalition of Colorado PFLAG Chapters in Boulder at Jean and Jack Hodge's house. 10 am to 4 pm. Bring a dish for 8.

Sunday, October 10 -at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, WY, "Light One Candle" a memorial concert to mark the one-year anniversary of Matthew Shepard's death. Peter, Paul and Mary will perform.

Monday, October 11 - National Coming Out Day

Tuesday, October 12 - "Parent's Coming Out Day" sponsored by PFLAG

Friday October 15 - Gill Foundation training: Organize, Educate and Advocate: Community Organizing Training" with Sonia Pena from the Center for Third World Organizing. At the LeBaron Hotel, 314 W. Biuou, in Colorado Springs, 9 am to 4 pm. Call 473-4455.

Friday, October 15 - Sunday, October 17th - In Colorado Springs, "Justice Now" and "Claiming the Spirit," third annual statewide conference by Equality Colorado, Call 227-8545 for info. $90 per person.

to T.D.E., the Denver Exchange, for graciously providing space for the PFLAG Colorado Springs Home page. TDE Internet can be reached at (303) 455-4252 or sales @tde.com

The PFLAG Colorado Springs Home page is located at: www.tde.com/~pflagcos

PFLAG NATIONAL WEB

http://www.pflag.org

The Smokebrush Theater will be the venue for the fourth annual Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival put on by the Upstart Performing Ensemble. Plays scheduled are:

October 6 - 9th, "Love! Valour! Compassion!"

October 13 - 16, The "Eye of the Gull."

October 20 - 23, "Twilight of the Gods"

The cost is $12 for one play or $27 for a festival pass. Call Smokebrush at 444-0884 or Upstart at 636-5089 for more information.

Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church

Now holding services Sunday at 10:30 am at:
1102 South 21st Street
Rev. Nori J. Rost, Pastor

The MCC office is located in the Pride Center at
125 N. Parkside Drive
719-634-3771

Contact the PFLAG newsletter editor at Tel. and Fax: 719-598-5258—e-mail: PatPfeif@aol.com (Pat Pfeiffer)-

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian and bisexual persons, their families and friends, through support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.